MARVEL®

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES™

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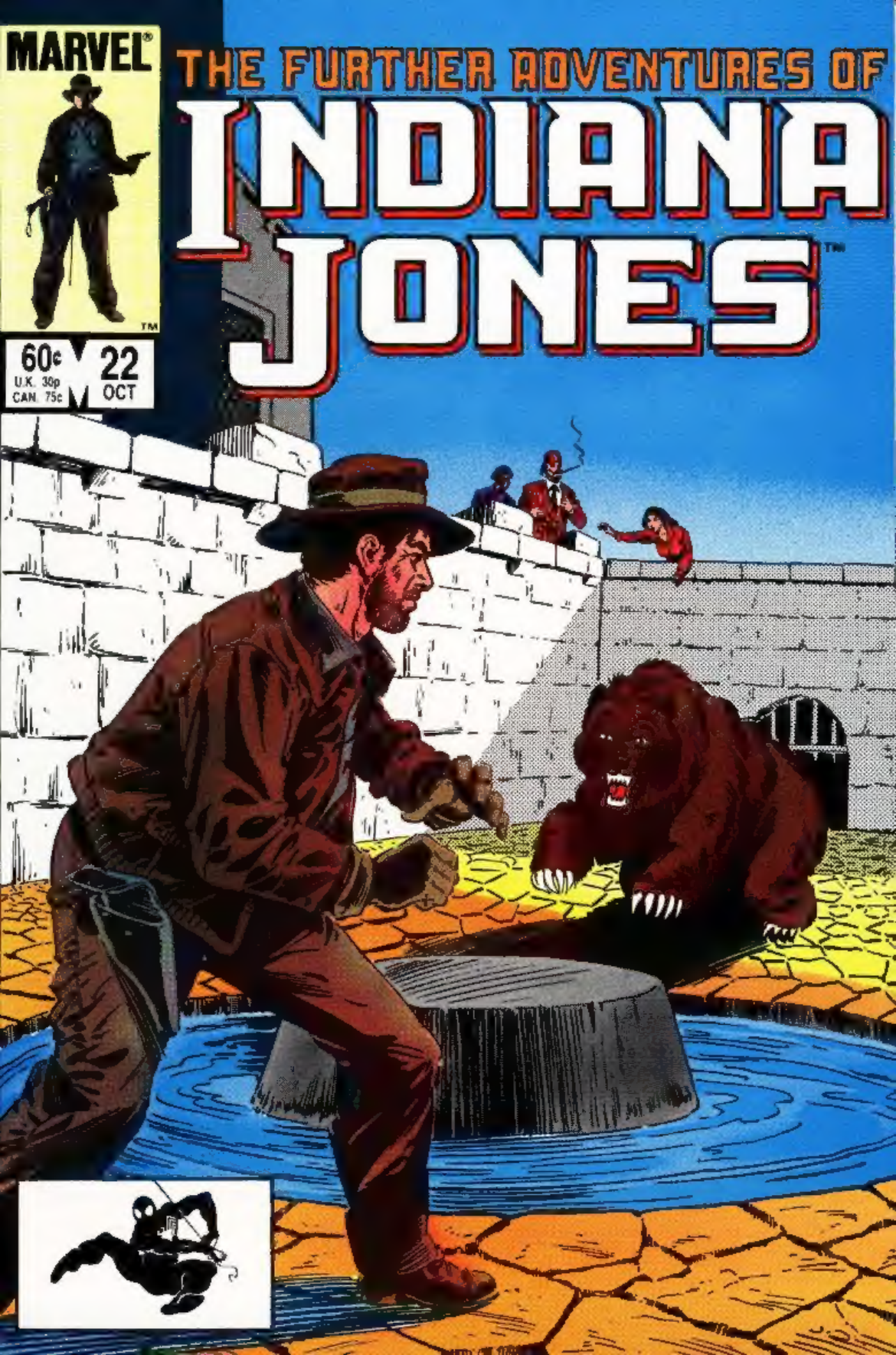

THIRTY SECONDS AGO, INDIANA JONES WAS HAVING A GOOD TIME. HE HAD JUST BESTED TARRANT-- AUSTIN "CUTTER" COLERIDGE'S RIGHT-HAND HENCHMAN-- AND INDY WOULD HAVE BY NOW REJOINED HIS FRIENDS MARCUS BRODY AND MARION RAVENWOOD FOR A WARM VICTORY CELEBRATION IN THE NEARBY MINING VILLAGE OF MERTHYR TYDFIL.
THIRTY SECONDS AGO, INDIANA WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE'D LEARN THE LOCATION OF HIS ARCH NEMESIS, BEN ALI AYOOB, AND COULD THEN PROCEED TO FORCE AYOOB TO CLEAR MARCUS BRODY OF THE INFAMOUS ARNHEM RING SCANDAL.
THIRTY SECONDS AGO, INDIANA WAS WELL ON HIS WAY TO BEING A HERO. THINGS WERE GOING JUST SWELL.
BUT THAT WAS THIRTY SECONDS AGO.
AT LAST I HAVE FOUND YOU, DR. JONES. I AM PLEASED OUR SLEEPING MR. TARRANT DID NOT KILL YOU.
THAT DUTY IS RESERVED FOR ME, SO MY FUHRER COMMANDS.
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
END RUN

PLOT	SCRIPT	PENCILS	INKS	LETTERS	COLORIST	EDITOR	ED IN CHIEF
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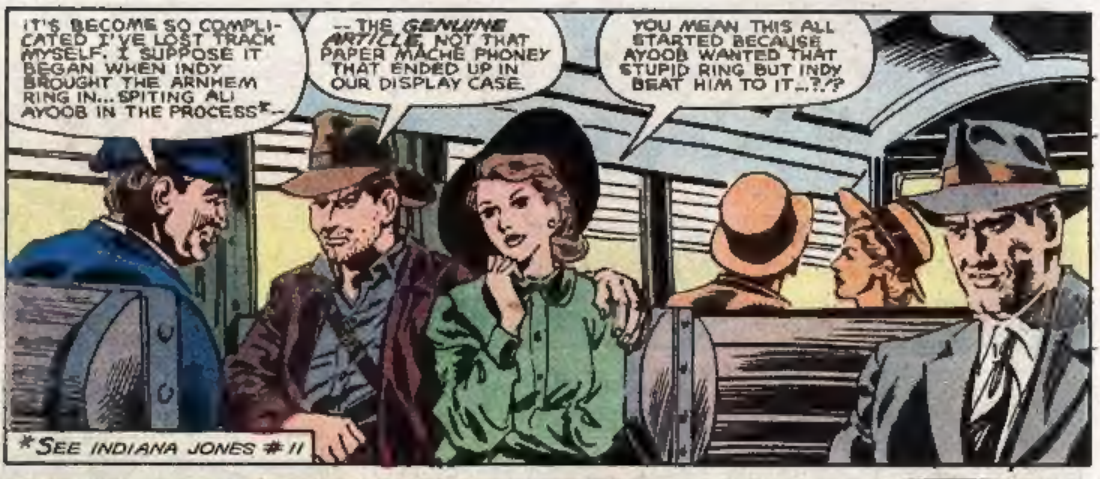
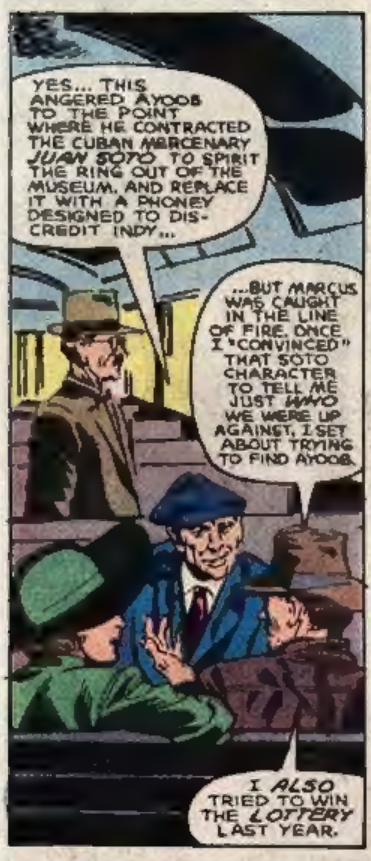
I DON'T SUPPOSE HITLER WOULD SETTLE FOR A HARSH REPRIMAND...
...SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "DON'T DO IT AGAIN...?"
I'M AFRAID NOT, DR. JONES...
...THOUGH I MUST ADMIT I AM LOATHE TO CARRY OUT THIS ASSIGNMENT. YOU ARE A MAN OF GREAT COURAGE AND HONOR.
IT DISTRESSES ME THAT I MUST NOW KILL YOU.
I'M NOT SO THRILLED EITHER.
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THWARTED THE FUHRER'S GREAT PLANS AND SO...SO CHILDISH A TRICK IS UNBECOMING... OH.
N..NO... LOST MY FOOTING...
HELLLPPP!!!
TARRANT... WOULD'VE KILLED ME... YOU SAVED MY LIFE...?!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, PALLY. IF TARRANT HAD GIVEN YOU THE SHIV YOUR TRIGGER FINGER PROBABLY WOULD'VE KNOTTED FROM THE SPASM...
...BESIDES, I WAS TRYING TO HIT YOU. TARRANT JUST GOT IN THE WAY.
THIS IS EMBARRASSING. I FIND MYSELF INDEBTED TO YOU... YET HONOR-BOUND TO BRING ABOUT YOUR DEMISE...
...I WILL GRANT YOU A BOON, DR. JONES. I WILL NOT SHOOT YOU...
...YET.
I WILL ALLOW YOU 24 HOURS TO CONCLUDE YOUR AFFAIRS WITH AYOOB. AFTER THAT I MUST SHOOT YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
YOU'RE ALL HEART.
HEY INDY... WHO'S YOUR FRIEND...?
2

YOU OF COURSE, MUST BE MARION RAVENWOOD, DAUGHTER OF THE LATE ABNER RAVENWOOD, WHO WAS ONCE DR. JONES' ARCHAEOLOGICAL MENTOR, AND YOU, SIR...
...THE VENERABLE MARCUS BRODY, FORMER CURATOR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. YOU WERE DISMISSED, AS I RECALL, ON THE GROUNDS THAT A FEATURED DISPLAY ITEM--
--THE ARNHEM RING-- WAS FOUND TO BE FRAUDULENT. THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE JOINED YOUR TWO FRIENDS IN SEARCH OF THE AUTHENTIC RING AND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DUPLICITY...
...BEN ALI AYOOB.
ONE MOMENT, BUSTER... HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS? THIS CASE AIN'T EXACTLY WORLD-SHAKING HEADLINE NEWS!
IT'S REAL EASY TO COLLECT INFORMATION IN HIS LINE OF WORK, MARION. HE'S A...
THESE PAPERS WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, DR. BRODY.
SPLENDID.
SPLENDID?!?
DON'T YOU CONSIDER IT A GREAT ASSET, INDY TO HAVE YOUR FRIEND, MR. HANS DEGEN, ALONG...
...BEING HE'S WITH SCOTLAND YARD?
HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAW ALONG SHOULD GREATLY FACILITATE MATTERS--
--SINCE I NOW KNOW WHERE ALI AYOOB IS.
SWITZERLAND, DAYS LATER...
"LOOK, INDY, I REALIZE I'M THE JUNIOR PARTNER IN THIS LITTLE ASSOCIATION, AND MAYBE I SHOULD JUST KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT--
"--BUT I'M LOSING TRACK OF ALL THIS. HOW DID THIS ARNHEM RING BUSINESS ALL BEGIN?"
3


IT'S BECOME SO COMPLICATED I'VE LOST TRACK MYSELF. I SUPPOSE IT BEGAN WHEN INDY BROUGHT THE ARNHEM RING IN... SPITING ALI AYOOB IN THE PROCESS*--
--THE GENUINE ARTICLE, NOT THAT PAPER MACHE PHONEY THAT ENDED UP IN OUR DISPLAY CASE.
YOU MEAN THIS ALL STARTED BECAUSE AYOOB WANTED THAT STUPID RING BUT INDY BEAT HIM TO IT...?!?
*SEE INDIANA JONES #11


YES... THIS ANGERED AYOOB TO THE POINT WHERE HE CONTRACTED THE CUBAN MERCENARY JUAN SOTO TO SPIRIT THE RING OUT OF THE MUSEUM, AND REPLACE IT WITH A PHONEY DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT INDY...
...BUT MARCUS WAS CAUGHT IN THE LINE OF FIRE. ONCE I "CONVINCED" THAT SOTO CHARACTER TO TELL ME JUST WHO WE WERE UP AGAINST, I SET ABOUT TRYING TO FIND AYOOB.
I ALSO TRIED TO WIN THE LOTTERY LAST YEAR.

IT WAS NO SECRET THAT THIS "CUTTER" COLERIDGE CHARACTER HAD HIS FINGERS INTO UNDERWORLD PIES ALL OVER THE GLOBE. IF ANYBODY KNEW HOW TO FIND AYOOB, COLERIDGE WAS OUR PIGEON.
FINDING COLERIDGE WAS SOMEWHAT SIMPLER, MARION. WE WERE CLASSMATES IN OUR COLLEGE DAYS, AUSTIN... "CUTTER"... FAITHFULLY CHECKED IN WITH THE OLD SCHOOL NETWORK, ADVISING HIS FORMER SCHOOL INTIMATES OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.
EFFICIENT DEVIL.
AND SO, MARCUS, COLERIDGE TOLD YOU WHERE TO FIND AYOOB, HUH? AND NOW HERE WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO SWITZERLAND...

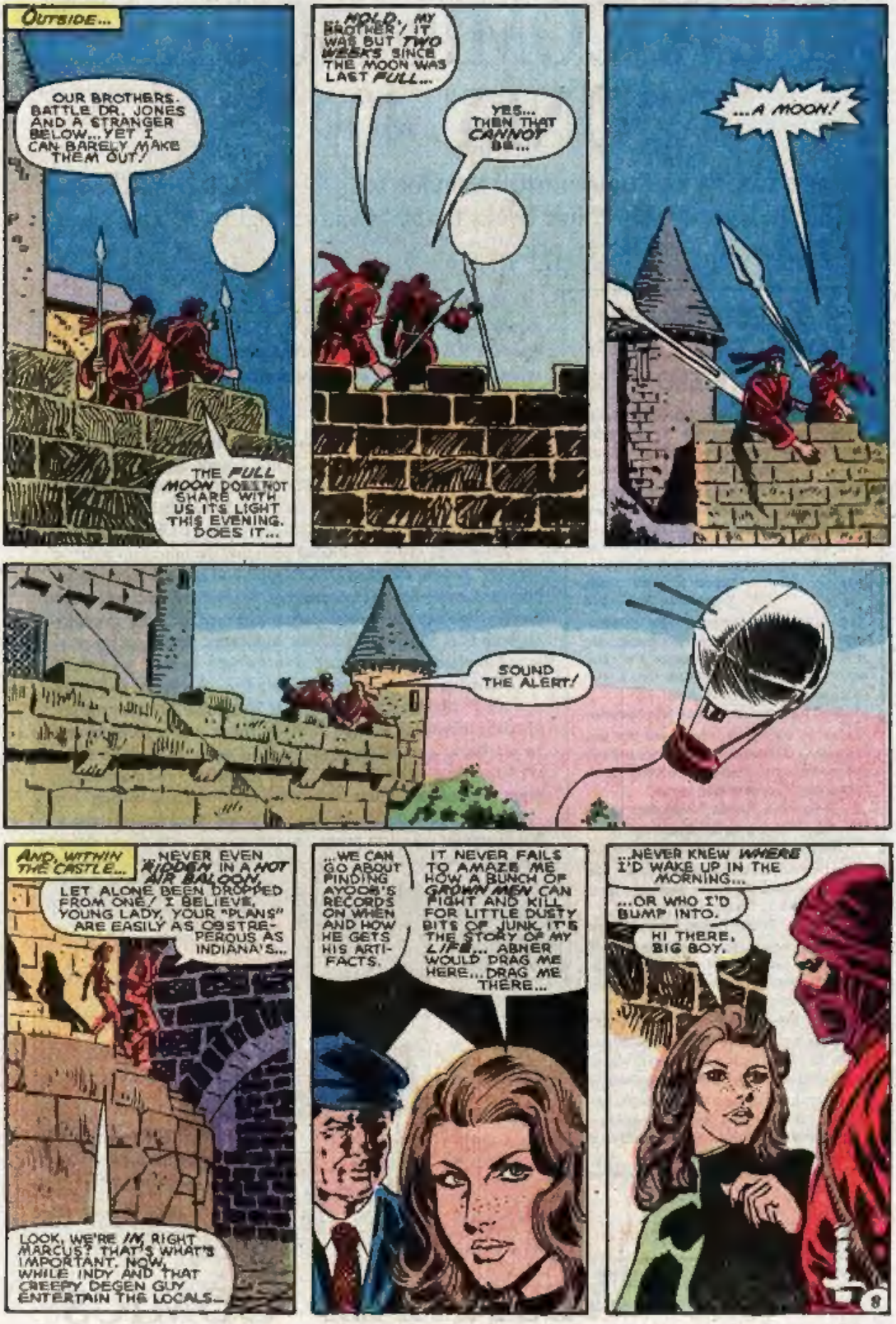
...HOPING AYOOB HASN'T CHANGED HIS ADDRESS WHILE WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING. SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN WANDERING ALONG ON A WING AND A PRAYER... AND WITH A LOT OF LUCK.
OH SURE YOU COULD DO BETTER, RIGHT?
I THINK SO.
OKAY, BRIGHT EYES--ENLIGHTEN US WITH THE PROPER WAY TO HAVE HANDLED THIS ENTIRE FIASCO.

SIMPLE, ONCE I'D DISCOVERED THE RING WAS A FAKE—
--I'D HAVE JUST BLAMED IT ALL ON YOU.

THE NEXT DAY...
OKAY, SO WE'RE HERE. WHERE'S AYOOB?
ACCORDING TO WHAT COLERIDGE TOLD MARCUS, AYOOB'S HOLED UP IN THAT CASTLE AT THE TOP OF THAT HILL THERE.
HOW CAN WE GET TO THE CASTLE, DR. JONES? THE ROAD IS SURELY LINED WITH HIDDEN SNIPERS--
IF ANYBODY'S INTERESTED-- I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
NIGHT...
FRAULINE RAVENWOOD IS A VERY RESOURCEFUL YOUNG WOMAN, DR. JONES. IT WOULD BE A PITY IF ANYTHING... UNFORTUNATE... SHOULD BECOME OF HER...
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, DEGEN?
IT IS NIGHT AND WE ARE ALONE JONES. A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO AMBUSH ME...
...SINCE I HAVE MADE PLAIN MY INTENTIONS TOWARDS YOURSELF. SHOULD ANY HARM BEFALL ME, BE ASSURED THAT MY ALLIES--
MISTER, YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR MUSTACHIOED BIGOT-PATROL CAN DO WHAT YOU PLEASE--SHOOT ME NOW, SHOOT ME LATER, SHOOT MY FRIENDS--
--BUT YOU WON'T BREAK ME NOW, AND YOU DON'T SCARE ME, AND THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME FROM PLANTING A SLUG BETWEEN YOUR EARS IS, RIGHT NOW I NEED A WARM BODY TO WATCH MY BACK. THAT'S IT.
SAVE YOUR THREATS, MISTER. AFTER WE HIT AYOOB, IT'S...
...SHOW-TIME.
6

THESE ARE ISMAILIS... DEADLY ASSASSINS IN AYOOB'S SERVICE...!
FASCINATING. I MUST TELL MY SUPERIORS OF THESE MEN...
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU MUST FIRST SURVIVE THIS LITTLE FIGHT, DEGEN--
UHNN!
DO NOT WORRY FOR ME, DR. JONES--
I AIN'T WORRYING...
...I'M JUST HAVING FUN.

I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN VIOLENCE...
YOUR LOSS.
MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CASTLE...
FINALLY.
DR. JONES HAS FINALLY FOUND ME. THE WAIT WAS INTOLERABLE, YET HE HAS ARRIVED AT LAST.
A PITY JONES IS SO STUPID. I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED ONE'S ARCH ENEMY SHOULD BE AT LEAST AS INTELLIGENT AS, SAY, A HIRED HAND.
YOU WOULD, OF COURSE, AGREE NARADA?
A WORTHY FOE WOULD'VE SEEN THROUGH MY LITTLE DECEPTIONS...PUSHED MY TIMETABLE CONSIDERABLY FORWARD.
AS IT IS I'VE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO NOT ONLY PREPARE FOR JONES' ARRIVAL, BUT ADD TO MY GROWING COLLECTION OF RARE ARTIFACTS AS WELL ...SUCH AS THE DEVIL'S HEART WHICH ADORNS MY MANTLE.
NO, DR. JONES IS NOT VERY INTELLIGENT AT THAT. HE IS, HOWEVER, CUNNING, AND AT TIMES, NEARLY AS RUTHLESS AS MYSELF. YET IN THIS CONTEST OF WILLS, AS IN ANY SUCH CONTEST...
...DR. JONES MUST FALL TO BEN ALI AYOOB.
THE WORD, MASTER...?
IS GIVEN.
7


OUTSIDE...
OUR BROTHERS BATTLE DR. JONES AND A STRANGER BELOW... YET I CAN BARELY MAKE THEM OUT!
THE FULL MOON DOES NOT SHARE WITH US. IT'S LIGHT THIS EVENING. DOES IT...
HOLD, MY BROTHER! IT WAS BUT TWO WEEKS SINCE THE MOON WAS LAST FULL...
YES... THEN THAT CANNOT BE...
...A MOON!
SOUND THE ALERT!
AND, WITHIN THE CASTLE...
...NEVER EVEN "HIDDEN" IN A HOT AIR BALOON, LET ALONE BEEN DROPPED FROM ONE, I BELIEVE, YOUNG LADY, YOUR "PLANS" ARE EASILY AS OBSTREPEROUS AS INDIANA'S...
LOOK, WE'RE IN, RIGHT MARCUS? THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT. NOW, WHILE INDY AND THAT CREEPY DEGEN GUY ENTERTAIN THE LOCALS...
...WE CAN GO ABOUT FINDING AYOOB'S RECORDS ON WHEN AND HOW HE GETS HIS ARTIFACTS.
IT NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE ME HOW A BUNCH OF GROWN MEN CAN FIGHT AND KILL FOR LITTLE DUSTY BITS OF JUNK. IT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE... ABNER WOULD DRAG ME HERE... DRAG ME THERE...
...NEVER KNEW WHERE I'D WAKE UP IN THE MORNING...
...OR WHO I'D BUMP INTO.
HI THERE, BIG BOY.

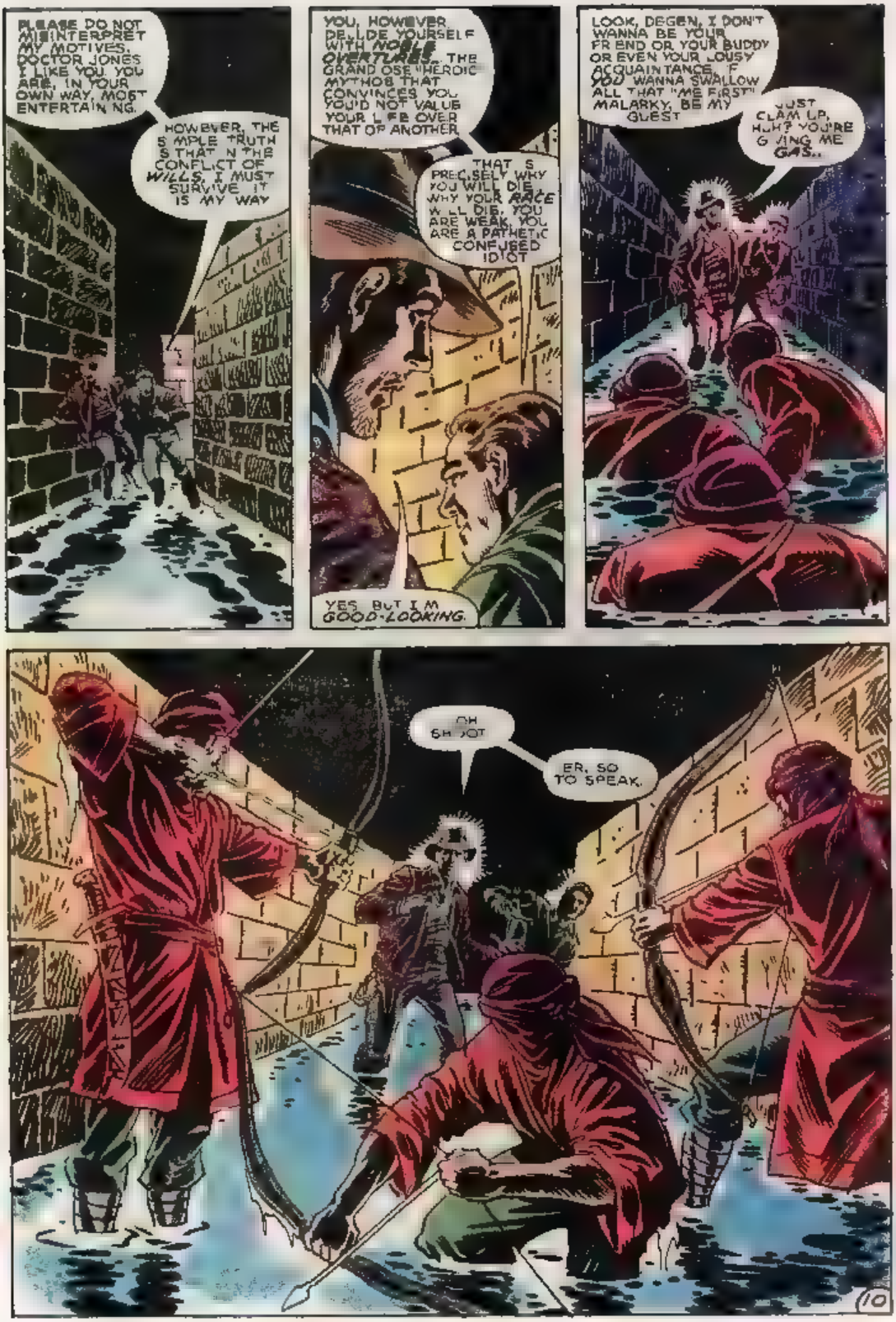
MARCUS... REMEMBER MY PLAN...?

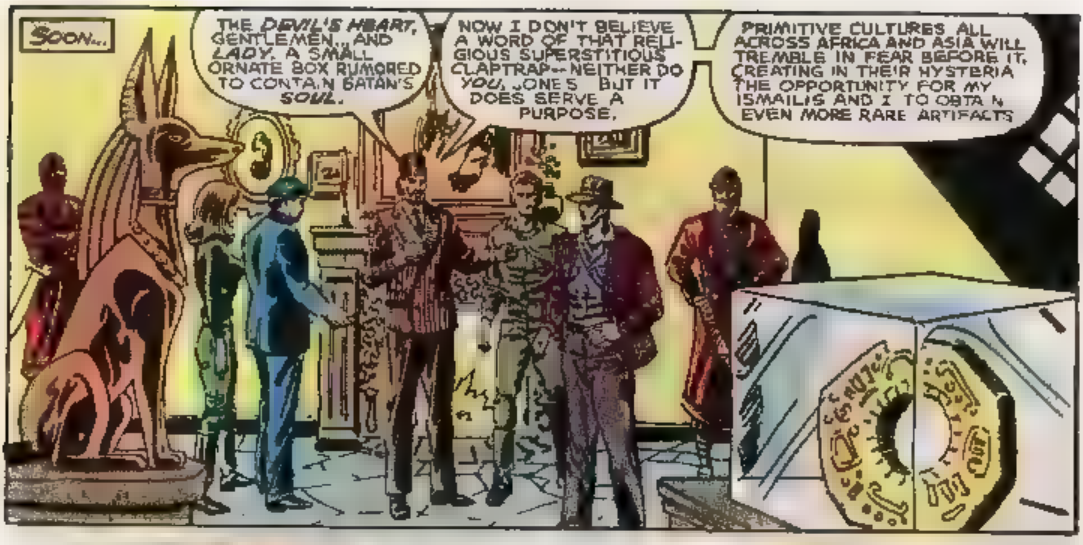
I DON'T THINK IT WORKED.

MEANWHILE...
TEN ISMAILIS FALL TO ONE ARYAN...
WASN'T TOO HARD TO SHOOT PEOPLE WHO DON'T SHOOT BACK, NOW WAS IT DEGEN?
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE SHOWN THEM MERCY AND BE LEFT GAGGING IN YOUR OWN BLOOD, DR. JONES?
I'M NOT JUDGING YOUR MORALS, DEGEN... BUT IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED YOU USED UP ALL YOUR AMMO BACK THERE. NOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FIND SOMEBODY WHO ACTUALLY HAS A GUN?

ANY WEAPON WILL DO, DR. JONES. A ROCK, A STICK... YOUR WARM CORPSE...
WAIT... I THINK I'VE JUST FOUND A WAY IN.

WE CAN WORK OUR WAY UP TO AYOOB FROM HERE.
JUST FOLLOW MY WARM CORPSE.
9


PLEASE DO NOT MISINTERPRET MY MOTIVES, DOCTOR JONES. I LIKE YOU. YOU ARE, IN YOUR OWN WAY, MOST ENTERTAINING.
HOWEVER, THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS THAT IN THE CONFLICT OF WILLS, I MUST SURVIVE. IT IS MY WAY
YOU, HOWEVER, DELUDE YOURSELF WITH NOBLE OVERTURES... THE GRANDIOSE HEROIC MYTHOS THAT CONVINCES YOU YOU'D NOT VALUE YOUR LIFE OVER THAT OF ANOTHER.
THAT IS PRECISELY WHY YOU WILL DIE. WHY YOUR RACE WILL DIE. YOU ARE WEAK. YOU ARE A PATHETIC CONFUSED IDIOT.
YES, BUT I'M GOOD-LOOKING.
LOOK, DEGEN, I DON'T WANNA BE YOUR FRIEND OR YOUR BUDDY OR EVEN YOUR LOUSY ACQUAINTANCE. IF YOU WANNA SWALLOW ALL THAT "ME FIRST" MALARKY, BE MY GUEST.
JUST CLAM UP, HUH? YOU'RE GIVING ME GAS..
OH SHOOT
ER, SO TO SPEAK.
10


SOON...
THE DEVIL'S HEART, GENTLEMEN... AND LADY. A SMALL ORNATE BOX RUMORED TO CONTAIN SATAN'S SOUL.
NOW I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF THAT RELIGIOUS SUPERSTITIOUS CLAPTRAP--NEITHER DO YOU, JONES. BUT IT DOES SERVE A PURPOSE.
PRIMITIVE CULTURES ALL ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA WILL TREMBLE IN FEAR BEFORE IT, CREATING IN THEIR HYSTERIA THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MY ISMAILIS AND I TO OBTAIN EVEN MORE RARE ARTIFACTS

OUR FATE, JONES, WE HAVE THE SAME FIRST LOVE. BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS THE REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US?
YEAH.
YOUR HAT'S FUNNIER LOOKING

AH YES. THE ACID WIT. THE GLIB TONGUE PERHAPS I'LL HAVE IT CUT OUT FOR A MEMENTO.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US, JONES, IS I AM A SUCCESS, WHILE YOU...
...ALL YOU HAVE ARE JOKES, LIKE THE ONE PLAYED ON ME IN OUR CONTEST FOR THE ARNHEM RING.*
*SEE ISSUE #11.

WELL, HERE IS A JOKE FOR YOU, DOCTOR.
WHEN THE SUN IS WHITE IN THE SKY ONCE MORE YOU SHALL DIE
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOU.
ENJOY YOUR LAUGH

MORNING. THE SUN ISN'T WHITE, BUT IT WILL DO.
GOOD MORNING, DR JONES. AS YOU CAN SEE IT IS TIME FOR BREAKFAST. MISS RAVENWOOD AND I HAVE OURS, AND VERY SHORTLY...
..MY PET GRIZZLY SHALL DINE ALSO. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN
IT'S THE ULTIMATE DEFEAT, JONES. NOT ONLY SHALL YOU BE RIPPED TO SHREDS, BUT YOUR TWO ASSOCIATES SHALL ALSO DIE AS A RESULT OF YOUR FAILURE.
MR DEGEN, ARE YOU ?
HUNGRY AND ACHING, DR BRODY? YES I AM
I ALSO HAPPEN TO BE GREATLY ANNOYED AT HAVING MY LIFE PLACED SO CASUALLY INTO DR JONES' HANDS
MR DEGEN YOUR LIFE OUR LIVES COULDN'T BE IN SAFER HANDS. INDIANA WILL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS.
HOPEFULLY
MISS RAVENWOOD WILL LIVE SO LONG AS SHE AMUSES ME.
YOU WANT AMUSEMENT? TRY THE HARDY BOYS.
PLEASE, MISS RAVENWOOD... DON'T MAKE THIS MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT MUST BE. I AM USED TO TAKING WHAT I WANT. RESISTANCE IS SO... COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE
IN THE END, I SHALL HAVE WHAT I DESIRE.
YOU AREN'T MAN ENOUGH.
THAT WE SHALL SOON SEE.
YEAH? HOW'S YOUR STAMINA, BENNY...?
12

IT IS AS BOUNDLESS AS MY FURY.
BEGIN!
SNAP
CLANK CLANK
GRRRRRRRRRRRR!
UH... YEAH
I'M GONNA GET HURT...
NO I'M GONNA GET KILLED.
GGRRRRRRRRRRR!!
NICE PUPPY GOOD BOY.
NICE BEAR DON'T WANNA MUNCH ON STALE OLD ARCHAEOLOGIST, NOW DOES HE...?
I'M GONNA GET KILLED.
THIS ROCK WILL STOP H.M.! OH BOY, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO THIS ROCK...!
I'M LOSING IT... PANICKING...
GGRRRRRRRRRRR!!
I'M SCARED
I'M GONNA GET KILLED.
13

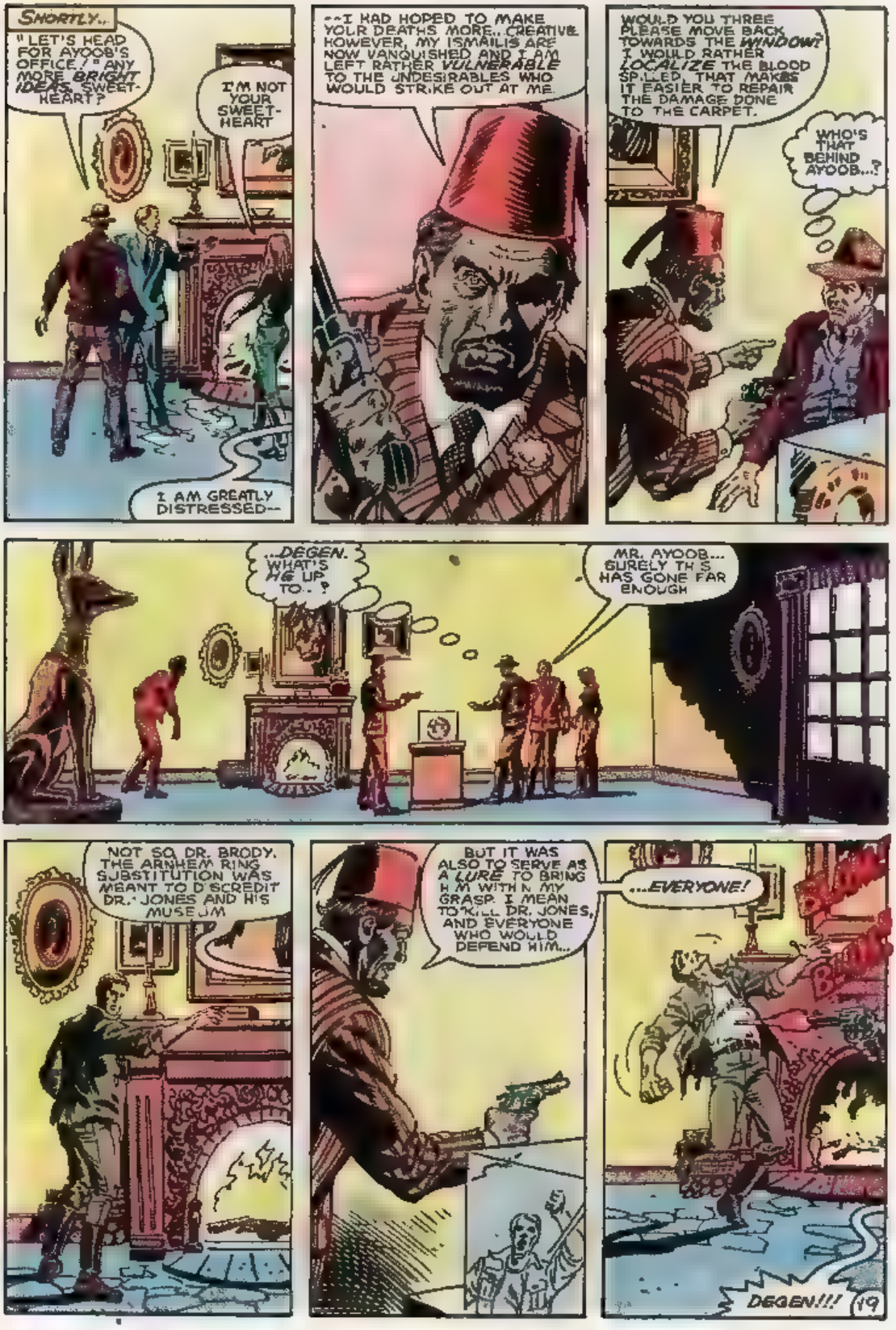
WHY NOT MAKE THINGS EASIER ON YOURSELF
Y' KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT, MAYBE I HAVE MADE A M STAKE.
I MEAN, HAVING MY FRIENDS' GUTS RIPPED OUT IN FRONT OF MY VERY EYES TENDS TO CLOUD MY PERSPECTIVE. YOU REMEMBER MY CRUDE REMARK ABOUT YOUR NOT BEING MAN ENOUGH...?
I TAKE THAT BACK
YOU'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN ENOUGH.
INDY, CATCH!
HUH?!? MARION!
GUARDS! AFTER HER!
USE THE CORK, DUMMY! THE CORK!
GRRRR
BUT I'M NOT EVEN THIRSTY
WAIT I THINK I KNOW WHAT SHE MEANS...
...THIS HAD BETTER WORK...

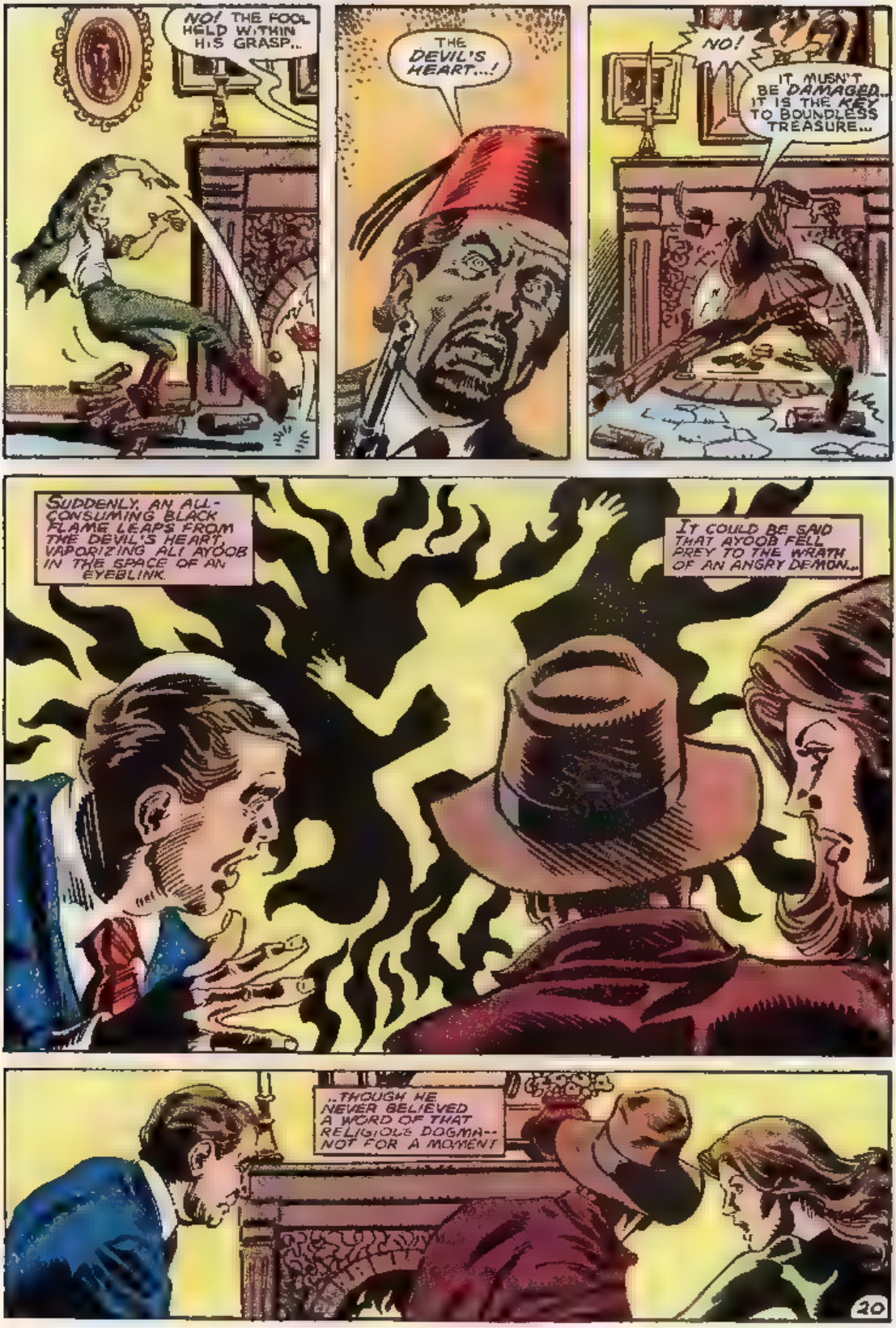
WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENING, MR. DEGEN...?
DR. JONES HAS APPARENTLY BESTED THE GRIZZLY FOR A MOMENT. HE'S COMING TO FREE YOU.
HOLD ON, YOU TWO
CRASH!
OKAY, MARCUS, LOOKS LIKE YOU GET TO SEND OUT YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR AFTER ALL!
I NEVER DOUBTED FOR A MOMENT, INDIANA.
WELL, MAYBE A MOMENT.
SO, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS, DR. JONES. YOU HAVE YOUR FREEDOM... I, A SLOW DEATH WHEN THE BEAR ATTACKS ONCE MORE.
I SUPPOSE, GIVEN THE SITUATION, IT'S ONLY FITTING--
SHUT UP
MARCUS, SPRING OUR PAL HERE WHILE I DANCE WITH HAIRY AGAIN
THE MAN IS MAD.
YOU, AND HE COULD EASILY ESCAPE WHILE THE BEAR IS PREOCCUPIED WITH ME. WHY DOES HE RISK HIS LIFE YET AGAIN?!
WHY...?
BECAUSE IT'S THE CIVIL THING TO DO, MY BOY

THE WOMAN?! WHERE IS SHE?!
SEARCH THE CATA-COMBS INCH BY INCH! SHE MUST BE FOUND! SO THE MASTER COMMANDS
SMAILIS HOT ON MY TRAIL. GOTTA KEEP MOV NG.
WHEW! IT STINKS DOWN HERE. SMELLS ALMOST LIKE
YEAH... AYOOB'S GOT HIS OWN LITTLE ZOO.
AND WHAT A LINE-UP! ALL DEADLY PRE-DATORS. ALL RATHER ANGRY LOOKING.
THE ISMAILIS WILL SPILL INTO THIS CHAMBER ANY M NUTE NOW... NOT MUCH CHOICE HERE
GROWWL
RRRARR
RRRRR
RRRARR
OKAY, FELLAS DO YOUR STUFF!
16

MEANWHILE...
EXCELLENT! MY GRIZZLY HAS FINALLY TRAPPED THAT FOOL JONES!
WHUMP!
OUR CONTEST OF WILLS, DOCTOR...
IS COMPLETE.
GRRRRRR!!
EH.?
MY.. MY IGMANIS.. MY BEASTS?! WHAT THE DEVIL ?
GROWL!
AND... THAT GERMAN WHO WAS WITH JONES.. WHAT IS HE DOING...?
I I'M GOING TO D E AND I NEVER TOLD MARION..
NEVER TOLD HER I HATE THOSE AWFUL RED SHOES SHE INSISTS ON WEARING ALL THE TIME.
... WHAT IS HAIRY BETTING WEAKER, OR...
17

GGROOD.WWLL!!!
DEGEN! BE CAREFUL, MAN! THAT BEAR WILL KILL YOU..!
D..DEGEN..?/?
I AM ARAYAN, DOCTOR BRODY. STAND BACK AND GIVE ME ROOM TO WORK. WORRY ABOUT DOCTOR JONES, THERE.
AARRROOOWWLL!!!
B..BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR CONTEST OF WILLS?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, INDIANA?
I HATE THOSE RED SHOES, MARCUS..I HATE 'EM...
DR. JONES! TAKE DR. BRODY AND ESCAPE WHILE YOU CAN. ONCE YOU'RE CLEAR I WILL RELEASE THE GRIZZLY.
WE... WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU
AARROOWWLL!
DON'T BE STUPID, JONES...
JUST GO!
MARION! NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN. DID YOU ENJOY YOUR LITTLE SNACK WITH AYOOB, HMMM?!
TOO BAD THAT BEAR DIDN'T SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS, NOW MIGHT'VE IMPROVED THINGS
LET'S HEAD BACK TO AYOOB'S OFFICE!
18


SHORTLY..
"LET'S HEAD FOR AYOOB'S OFFICE." ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS, SWEETHEART?
I'M NOT YOUR SWEETHEART
I AM GREATLY DISTRESSED--
--I HAD HOPED TO MAKE YOUR DEATHS MORE...CREATIVE. HOWEVER, MY ISMAILIS ARE NOW VANQUISHED AND I AM LEFT RATHER VULNERABLE TO THE UNDESIRABLES WHO WOULD STRIKE OUT AT ME.
WOULD YOU THREE PLEASE MOVE BACK TOWARDS THE WINDOW? I WOULD RATHER LOCALIZE THE BLOOD SPILLED, THAT MAKES IT EASIER TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE CARPET.
WHO'S THAT BEHIND AYOOB...?
...DEGEN. WHAT'S HE UP TO..?
MR. AYOOB... SURELY THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH
NOT SO, DR. BRODY. THE ARNHEM RING SUBSTITUTION WAS MEANT TO DISCREDIT DR. JONES AND HIS MUSEUM
BUT IT WAS ALSO TO SERVE AS A LURE TO BRING HIM WITHIN MY GRASP. I MEAN TO KILL DR. JONES, AND EVERYONE WHO WOULD DEFEND HIM...
...EVERYONE!
DEGEN!!!
19


NO! THE FOOL HELD WITHIN HIS GRASP...
THE DEVIL'S HEART...!
NO!
IT MUSN'T BE DAMAGED... IT IS THE KEY TO BOUNDLESS TREASURE...
SUDDENLY, AN ALL-CONSUMING BLACK FLAME LEAPS FROM THE DEVIL'S HEART, VAPORIZING ALI AYOOB IN THE SPACE OF AN EYEBLINK.
IT COULD BE SAID THAT AYOOB FELL PREY TO THE WRATH OF AN ANGRY DEMON...
...THOUGH HE NEVER BELIEVED A WORD OF THAT RELIGIOUS DOGMA-- NOT FOR A MOMENT
20

Bullpen Bulletins

JIM STARLIN TRIED TO KILL ME!

In the very first issue of *Dreadstar*, a column I wrote was published, telling of a perilous trip by innertube down the rapids of the mighty Esopus river, conducted by Mr. James Starlin, during which I nearly lost my tube and might have drowned. Jim, I thought, kicked my tube back toward me at that critical moment, thereby saving me from a watery death, or at least embarassement.

I was wrong.

The tube-kicking, it seems clear now, was an accident. Or, perhaps he meant to kick it *away* from me and simply through egregious, blundering incompetence mistakenly kicked it the "wrong" direction.

No matter. His true colors have, at last, been shown — and they bear, my friends, the well-known symbolic image of death . . . *Mr. Yuck!* Or something like that.

A month or so ago, Jim again lured me to his palatial country estate, this time for "a relaxing weekend of winter sport."

He took me snowmobiling. My first time.

Rocketing along mountain goat-trails completely out of control at sixty miles an hour — that, I didn't mind.

It was a little worrisome when Jim's co-conspirator, one Berni Wrightson, a highly skilled and experienced snowmobiler hurtled headlong off the trail and slaughtered a thicket of what one day would have been mighty oaks with his machine and his body.

What a mess.

Undaunted, trusting my "friend" Jim Starlin, I followed him onward, leaving Berni's corpse in the copse (or so we thought — later, it turned out, *he* survived. The copse was the only corpse).

Starlin led me at high speed to the very peak of Mt. Macho.

For a moment, we stopped, poised on the brink of a sheer cliff. Then, seeing a certain weird, evil gleam in his eyes, I said those three fatal, famous last words . . .

"You're not serious . . ."

Next thing I knew, I was plunging down a vertical cliff face, five hundred yards straight down, clinging to what might as well have been a large, hi-tech metal sculpture by Sid-doo. I'm not going to say he *pushed* my machine over the precipice, because it all happened so fast — who can really be sure? But, I submit to you, that no sane individual would take that plunge un-pushed, or of his own free will.

Which is why Starlin *followed* me over of his own free will, shrieking his "death laugh" (patent pending) like the hysterical, crazed maniac he is.

Of course, he merely followed to cover up his dead — to make it look as though we'd both just gotten foolishly, suicidally careless. He, no doubt, was counting on that uncanny invulnerability which protects raving lunatics to save *his* life!

Ah, but fate cheated him. He survived all right, but somehow, as I plummeted, feeling all the while like Wile E. Coyote, I maintained control — and, as the cliff curved out into rocky meadow, I was still in the saddle, facing (as Stan Lee often commanded) front. I rode it out, and made it down the mountain.

The whole experience was worth it — because now I know. I *know*!

Jim Starlin is a killer.

Now, at last, I understand *Dreadstar*.

Vanth Dreadstar vs. the Lord High Papal — to the death, of course! But, you'll never guess the ultimate outcome! Nothing will ever be the same again after "Resolution" in issue #14 of *Dreadstar*, on sale in early July at your local comics specialty store. Just $1.50.

By the way, watch for our full-color *video presentation!* It brings you up to date on all that has gone before in the entire Metamorphosis Odyssey-Dreadstar series! And it includes a *shocking* interview with Berni Wrightson in regards to his absolutely magnificent *Frankenstein* illustrated novel! It's probably being shown at your local comics shop now! If it's not, *demand* it!

HYPE BOX

MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1 — You think *you're* grouchy after oversleeping? Then check out Machine Man — he's been asleep for nearly 40 years, and is he fit to be tied! It's now the year 2020, but some things never change. For instance, Gears Garvin is still alive and kicking, and there's this second-generation super hero running around who looks *awfully* familiar! Who is he? Why did Machine Man sleep so long? And will he remember to set his alarm clock properly next time? For the answers to these and other vital questions of our day, be sure to read "He Lives Again," written by TOM DeFALCO, with lay-outs by HERB TRIMPE and finishes by BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!

MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1 — Who are the Makers, anyway? That's what the Micronauts want to know. Suffice it to say, though, that when the Makers finally *do* reveal themselves . . . the Microverse will never be the same again! This is the book that was so popular in comics shops that we couldn't keep it a secret from the newsstands — so it's available there now, too! "Shadow of the Makers" is written by PETER B. GILLIS, penciled by KELLEY JONES, inked by BRUCE PATTERSON . . . and it's got a special, painted cover by original Micronauts artist MICHAEL GOLDEN!

DOCTOR WHO #1 — He's a slightly eccentric, jelly-bean eating time-traveler — and now he's got his own monthly Marvel comic! He's Doctor Who, of course, and if you want to find out why his British TV show is the longest running in BBC history . . . read this comic! This issue features the beginning of the *Star-beast* story, written by MILLS & WAGNER and illustrated by DAVE GIBBONS; plus "Return of the Daleks," written by STEVE MOORE and illustrated by PAUL NEARY and DAVID LLOYD — *plus* an article on the history of Doctor Who illustrated by Thor artist WALT SIMONSON! And it's printed on Baxter paper, to boot!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #16**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #211**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #20**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #34**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #34** — What happens to a comic book character when his book is cancelled? Well, you can find out here . . . 'cause this is the last issue of **Ka-Zar**.
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #8**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1** — **Machine Man** in the year 2020! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **THE MUPPETS #1, 2 & 3** — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the new movie "The Muppets Take Manhattan." A three-pack.
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #7**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #257** — The secret of **Spidey's** new costume revealed!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #298**
- ☐ **THOR #348**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #22**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #3**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1** — Now available on newsstands! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #67**
- ☐ **U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #12**
- ☐ **THE LAST STAR FIGHTER (Limited Series) #1, 2 & 3** — The world's greatest video game player is appointed savior of the universe! Really! Adapted from the new movie.
- ☐ **SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **IRON MAN ANNUAL #7**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #248**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #183**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #168** — Never before reprinted . . . until now! "Never Step on A Scorpion," by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**, first presented in **Amazing Spider-Man #29**!
- ☐ **ROM #59**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #110**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #26**
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #6** — Now bi-monthly!
- ☐ **TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #2** — Marvel's official adaptation of the new **Indiana Jones** movie.
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #300** — Double-size spectacular!
- ☐ **X-MEN #188** — Illustrated by guest-artists **Barry Windsor-Smith** and **Terry Austin**!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #271**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #145** — Featuring **Spider-Man** and **Nomad**.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #167**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #95**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #136**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #88**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #15**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #47** — "What If **Loki** Had Found **Thor's** Hammer?"
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #1** — The star of the most popular TV show in Britain gets his own Marvel comic! See Hype Box.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #104**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #19**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #3**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #13**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS #2**

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #32: THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN** — The complete adaptation of the new **Muppet** movie!
- ☐ **GRAPHIC NOVEL #11: DAZZLER: THE MOVIE** — The **Dazzler's** mutant powers are revealed to the world! Written by JIM SHOOTER, penciled by FRANK SPRINGER and inked by VINCE COLLETTA!

HE'S DEAD, INDIANA.
DEGEN...?
YES. BRAVE SOUL, SACRIFICING HIMSELF LIKE THAT.
JUST BEFORE HE DIED, HE SAID TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, INDIANA.
SOMETHING ABOUT A CONTEST OF WILLS.
HE SAID HE LOST.
SHORTLY...
UGH. DEAD ISMAILIS.
THE ISMAILIS WERE TRAINED, DEADLY, KILLERS, MARION. HAD THINGS ENDED A BIT DIFFERENTLY, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN US LYING THERE.
WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO.
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE ON THEIR WAY UP TO TEND TO THE WOUNDED AND ROUND UP THE STRAY ANIMALS. I'VE GOT THE REAL ARNHEM RING.
WHAT SAY WE HEAD OUT?
QUITE A HARROWING ADVENTURE, EH INDIANA? YOU FACING DEATH IN THAT BEAR PIT AND ALL...
OH YEAH. NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, MARION...
...ABOUT THOSE RED SHOES YOU LIKE SO MUCH...
21

EPILOGUE
I LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS.
WE REPLACE THE REAL ARNHEM RING, PROVE MARCUS WAS FRAMED, MARCUS GETS HIS OLD JOB BACK, INDY SHAVES AND TAKES OFF THAT SMELLY, OLD HAT...
I MUST SAY I AM WELL PLEASED. MY FRIENDS... MY DEEPEST THANKS.
LET'S JUST KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE STUPID RING IN CASE SOMEBODY ELSE OUT THERE'S GOT IT IN FOR ME.
AND MARCUS, OLD PAL, THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE THING. MY "PALS" AT THE AIRLINE TICKET OFFICE JUST SENT ME A BILL FOR OUR LITTLE 'ROUND THE WORLD TRIP.
I'M GOING TO NEED A SMALL ADVANCE ON MY SALARY, SO, NOW THAT YOU'RE THE BOSS AGAIN, HOW ABOUT ZIPPING OUT A CHECK FOR ME...?
FOR, OH, SAY THIRTY WEEKS...
END

READERS OF THE LOST ARK

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Hey guys,

I noticed that in issue #17 a letter was signed "Budding Archaeologists," and you couldn't decide whether to call 'em "buds" or "arcs." Why don't you just call 'em "bud-arcs?"

Gilbert Avila
3520 Benton Street
Santa Clara, CA 95051

A brilliant suggestion, Gil, and we're kind of ashamed that we didn't think of it ourselves. But, rest easy, if they ever write into us again, Bud-arcs they will most assuredly be. That way, no one will have the slightest idea what we're talking about!

Dear Adventurous Friends,

How can I say it? Your comic is seriously superb. The way you think up stories for our favorite college professor is nothing less than amazing. I was delighted that you brought the ignominious Ian Molver back to us in issue #17. That guy is one heck of a villain.

I was intrigued by the marvelous missive in that same issue by the Budding Archaeologists from Fairport, New York about the history and handlings of the bullwhip. I own a twelve foot bullwhip myself, and I am at a lamentable loss as how to use the thing. I was wondering if maybe those fellow artifact hunters could share more introductive info with all of us amiable amateur whip crackers. I especially enjoyed the way these guys described the whistling weapon in the last paragraph of their letter.

Well, it's time for me to put down this perspicacious pen before I run out of alliterations. I just want to congratulate you guys at Marvel for the tremendously terrific job you do on this comic. To action, adventure, and archaeology!

A Bullwhip Fan
(no address given)

Wow! Those Bud-arcs sure did make a splash among Marveldom Assembled (or at least the furious fans of INDIANA JONES)! It's rare that we get so much reader response to one of our letter columns, but, of course, we couldn't be happier, especially since it means we get more opportunities to use our favorite new word. Thanks again to Marvelite supreme Gil Avila for coining the immortal phrase.

Dear Gentlemen,

I really enjoy what you are doing with Indy in your comic, although I have one complaint: why are his adventures always in places such as South America, Saudi Arabia, or Africa? Why not bring Indy home to places like old Spanish Florida or American Indian reservations? Maybe you guys could have Indy come down to New Orleans and get chased by a voodoo cult. In any case, every state has its own legends so how about letting Indy stay home once in awhile.

Bill Wahl
New Orleans, LA

An interesting idea, Bill, but if Indy Jones covered all the mysterious legends in the U.S. of A., where would that leave all you Bud-arcs who want to explore but don't have Indy's resources to travel. Seriously, though, Indy may decide to take a romp or two in the good old U.S.A. Keep watching.

Dear Marvel,

This is just a letter of appreciation. By putting out THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES, you have satisfied the appetites of millions of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and Indiana Jones fans. As a matter of fact, I was introduced to the world of comics by TFAOIJ, and believe you me I couldn't be happier!

The plots you introduce Indy to are nothing short of great. The stories move at a breakneck pace, just like the film and the suspense never lets up. I really have to restrain myself from sneaking a look at the end to see if Indy manages to escape his predicament (which, naturally, he always does, but it never hurts to make sure . . .).

But if there is one area for which you are to be doubly lauded, it is the area of character development. With Indiana Jones there is always the danger of him becoming just another larger-than-life hero. Yet you always keep him down-to-earth, showing that he is, after all, only human. The scenes between Indy and Marion in issues #17 and 18 show facets of each character that I never knew existed.

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES is one comic I am proud to have in my beginning, but ever-expanding collection. Other titles may come and go, but TFAOIJ has been and will continue to be my all-time favorite. Thanks, Marvel.

Rolando Arturo Castillo
8605 Spartan Court
Tampa, FL 33614

Hey, Rolando, what else could we do but present Indy Jones as a totally believable and admirable person? After all, its our responsibility to provide an example for all the Bud-arcs out there reading his exploits every month!!

Dear David, Herb, and Co.,

Man, oh man, what a comic!

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES is a perfect example of what a comic book based on a movie should be like. The action and humor run hand-in-hand, and it's a fitting tribute to an excellent film and two superstar filmmakers.

Now, on to issue #16:

David Michelinie has been a favorite writer of mine since his days on IRON MAN with JR / JR and Bob Layton. His work on this title is up to his outstanding standards. "The City of Yesterday's Forever" was a good installment in the series. It began with a good resolution to a real . . . hee hee . . . dare I say it — why not — cliffhanger! Then the story took off like a rocket, and it had great dialogue, to boot! Take a bow, David, you deserve it.

Artwise, Herb's pencils have never been better. He needs to take a bow, too.

Since I'm on the subject of artists, any chance of getting my favorite artist, Bob Layton, to do a cover or a fill-in issue? He and David did an excellent job on IRON MAN and Bob's style would be great on this title. So how about it? I'm begging! Please!!

Mark Livengood
PO Box 514
Little River, SC 29566

We're afraid we can't make any promises, Dave. We'd be as happy as anyone if baby-faced Bobby could do an issue or two, but his schedule is quite booked for the next couple of months.

Dear Marvel,

I used to read THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES when it was a back-up strip in an English Marvel comic called RETURN OF THE JEDI WEEKLY. I was very disappointed when it finished.

Fortunately, there is a news agent in my area who sells American Marvel comics, and I was delighted to discover that he sells TFAOIJ. I now buy this super mag every month, and so far I have not been disappointed in the least by the stories. The art has also been fantastic. Another thing I really like is the covers. Everytime I get the latest issue and I see Indy on the cover in a very dangerous situation, I ask myself, how will he get out of this one?

This is my first letter writing to an American Marvel mag, but I've had a few letters printed in the Marvel comics which are published by your little brother (?) in England. The English Marvels are reprints of the American ones. They are on sale every week here, but there are not nearly as many comics published in England as there are in America.

Jimmy O'Beirne
7'Knockmore Gardens
Dublin 24, Ireland

Thanks for the kind words, Jimmy. And thanks also for the brief description of the Marvel British department. We're sure many of the readers on this side of the Atlantic never knew exactly how Marvel comics were published in the British Isles. It's good to hear that you can get THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES over there. We'd hate to think any of our British Bud-arcs were missing the valuable lessons we present every month.

Dear Marvel,

Here, in small phrases, I will actually describe THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES #18. FAN-TAS-TIC!

Ronnie Olmos
2473 Dumont Court
San Jose, CA 95122

And what in the world can we say to that? Except, thanks!

Hey! We actually made it through an entire reply without mentioning the word Bud-arc. There must be some way to fit it in. (Hmmmmm.) See you in thirty.